

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-25 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

§ 112 Rejection of Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22

In Sections 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 have been amended to address the rejection.

The structure of independent claim 1, as presented herein, provides a non-volatile recording medium for recording a digital audio signal comprising:

a block-segmenting element to segment the digital audio signal into a plurality of blocks, each block having a predetermined data length selected to provide a maximum recordable time on the recording medium and a maximum encryptable data length of the digital audio signal,

wherein the selection of said predetermined data length provides an encryption process free of fractions so that substantially less space of the non-volatile recording medium is wasted; and

a compressor to compress the digital audio signal at a compression ratio selectable in a predetermined range.

(emphasis added)

In summary, the recording medium of claim 1 includes a block-segmenting element to segment the digital audio signal into blocks, each block having a predetermined data length, wherein the selection of the predetermined data length provides an encryption process free of fractions so that substantially less space of the non-volatile recording medium is wasted.

Therefore, the data insufficiency and fraction problem in the conventional encryption process

can be overcome by the limitations specified in claim 1. This limitation is disclosed in the Specification, page 87, lines 18-23. "A proper SU value is selected in consideration of a data unit suitable for an encrypting process corresponding to DES, 16 bytes suitable for both stereo mode and monaural mode, and free of fractions in the encrypting process so as to improve the encrypting process."

It is appreciatively noted that claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 would allowable if the term "substantially" is removed from the phrase "substantially free". As described for claim 1, other claims 8, 15, and 22 have also been amended to remove the term "substantially" from the phrase "substantially free".

Based on the foregoing discussion, claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 should be allowable. Furthermore, since claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, and 23-25 depend from claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, respectively, claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, and 23-25 should also be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment and the allowance of this application with claims 1-25 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes

were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

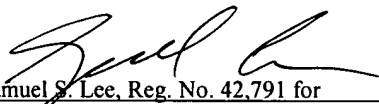
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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